(c) to (e) India's decision was based on its own assessment of the then prevailing situation. The Government of India reiterates its continuing and consistent commitment to the SAARC process, and to increasing trade and economic cooperation among Member States towards enhancing prosperity of the SAARC region and promoting greater regional economic integration. Strengthening democracy and bringing about regional peace are not within the ambit of the SAARC agenda.

Highway Upgradation Programme

*55. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Committee on infrastructure cleared a mega expansion of the on-going highway upgradation programme, entailing an expected investment of about Rs. 1,70,000 crore over the next seven years;

(b) whether besides two phases of on—going National Highway Development Project, Government are planning to implement a third phase covering 10,000 Kms. of road connecting the State capitals; and

(c) whether connectivity of ports and heritage sites is also envisaged?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The Planning Commission made a presentation on the highway upgradation programme before the Committee on Infrastructure, set up by the Government.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir.

Problems of Indian Fishermen detained in Pakistan

*56. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI:
DR. A.K. PATEL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that Indian fishermen and boats are being taken into custody by the Pakistan Security Agency;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to resolve this matter; and